



blm - alaska

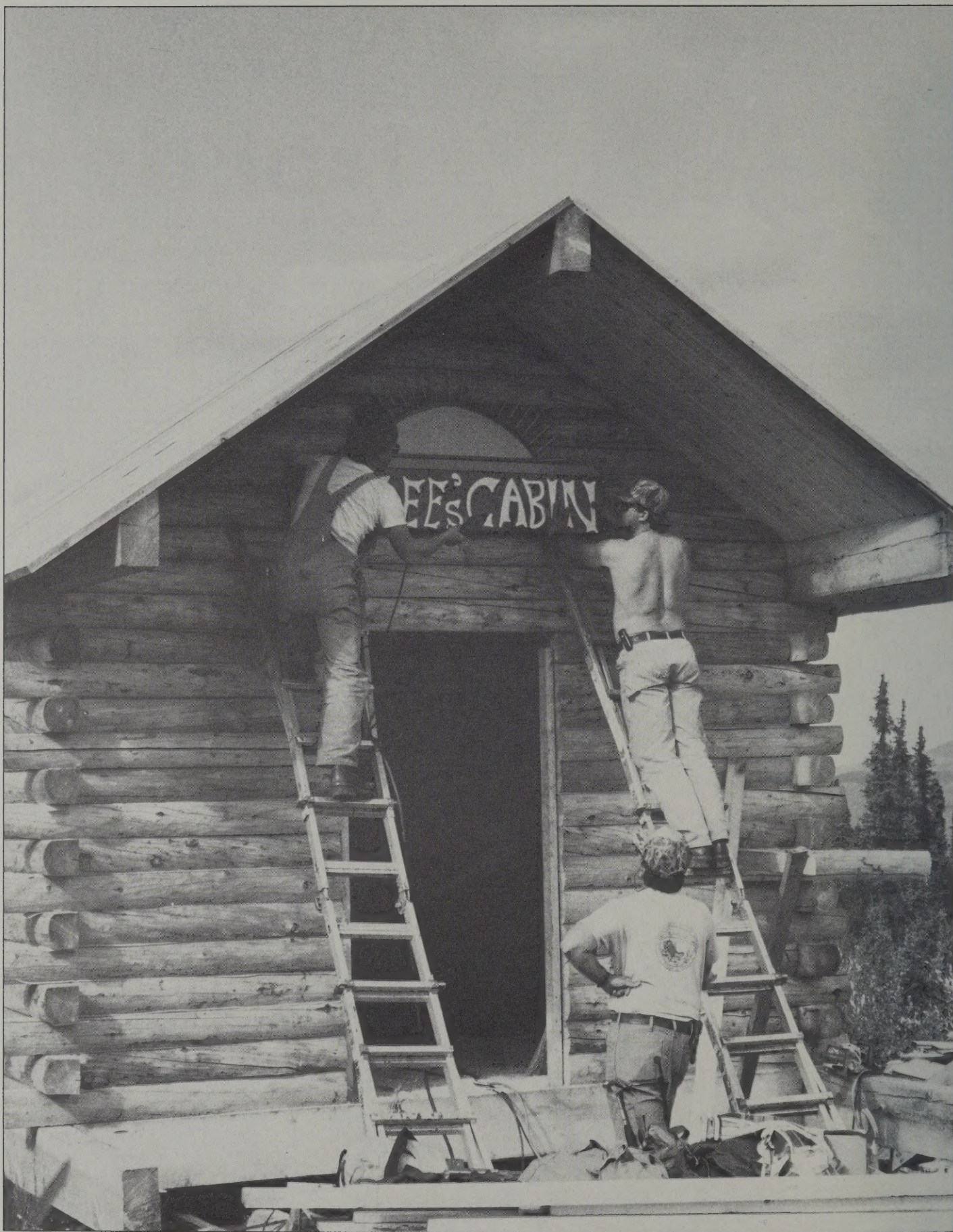
frontiers

managing public lands for multiple use

Issue 39 November 1992

**Thrills and chills of a BLM
Vista Volunteer - page 6**





This new cabin in the White Mountains is now ready for skiers, dogmushers and snowmachiners.

New cabins go up on BLM land

Lee's Cabin is the newest of 10 public recreation cabins in the White Mountains National Recreation Area, 26 air miles northeast of Fairbanks. It was named for Lee Westenburg, a former BLM employee suffering from inoperable cancer. Westenburg worked for the Steese/White Mountains District from 1986-88 as an outdoor recreation planner. He took a similar job at the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge near Tok for U.S. Fish and Wildlife in 1989.

During Westenburg's time with BLM, he helped design the network of cabins and trails to be built in the million-acre recreation area. Over 200 miles of trails now connect the cabins, which are a popular winter outing for dog mushers, snow machiners and cross-country skiers.

The 12-by-16 cabin, constructed of three-sided logs by the Steese/White Mountains District and the BLM maintenance staff, is just seven miles from the Wickersham Creek Trailhead at 28 mile Elliott Highway.

The cabin sits near the junction of the Wickersham Creek Trail and Trail Creek Trail. People stopped to check progress during the week the staff was building and finishing the cabin, and it was rented the first night it was available.

The placement of Lee's Cabin reduces the distance from the highway to other BLM cabins in the vicinity, and makes them more accessible to cross-country skiers during the short winter days. While most of the cabins are for winter use because of the boggy terrain of the recreation area, Lee's cabin can be reached during the summer by hikers, mountain bikes and all-terrain vehicles on the Wickersham Trail.

The cabin may be rented for \$20 a night from BLM's Public Room at the Fairbanks Office Building at 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844. Call (907) 474-2250 for more information on the cabins, or call 474-2372 for current trail conditions.

—Sharon Durgan Wilson

Downright nasty! That's how some describe the Iditarod Trail between Skwentna and McGrath. That 268-mile stretch of trail is notorious with Iditarod Sled Dog Race mushers as having strong winds, extreme temperatures and no shelter.

Joe Redington, father of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and BLM Iditarod Advisory Council member, has long advocated a shelter cabin in the area. Unlike recreational cabins, shelter cabins cannot be rented by the public, and are located in remote areas where dog-mushers and others may seek protection from the weather.

Taking the dogmushers' advice, the BLM Anchorage District has built a shelter cabin at Bear Creek, just east of McGrath. It is located in the Farewell Burn, an area devastated by a multi-million-acre fire in 1977.

A five-person crew constructed the 12 x 16 cabin in six days despite constant rain and voracious mosquitoes.

Ten loads were brought in by helicopter from McGrath to the work site, making this "the fastest cabin project I've ever been involved with," said BLM carpenter Bill Baker.

They built the cabin on a hill about a mile from the Iditarod Trail, after trudging through miles of boggy tundra.

"This is a winter-use cabin," says Mike Zaidlicz, Iditarod National Historic Trail Coordinator. "It's not accessible in the summer unless you are traveling by helicopter . . . It will be real popular with dogmushers and bison hunters during the winter."

The cabin is stocked with firewood and sleeps ten, has a dog team hookup and an outhouse. The cabin

is named after a nearby tributary and is the second shelter cabin constructed on the Iditarod Trail by the BLM Anchorage District. The Tripod Flats shelter cabin was built outside Unalakleet in 1989.

—Danielle Allen



New shelter cabin will help travelers on the Iditarod Trail.

Cavalry rides again

The resonant sound of a bugle call floated on the crisp morning air over Eagle, Alaska. Tourists and local residents lining the edge of the parade ground stood at attention on the dew-laden grass as the muffled beat of hooves signaled the approach of four horses. Time slipped away to the year 1899, when U.S. Army troops practiced drills on this

Fort Egbert was built in 1899 to bring law and order to the gold fields of the Fortymile River country and the community of Eagle. The restored buildings are operated and maintained by the BLM and the Eagle Historical Society.

same parade ground. Then, it was a part of newly-built Fort Egbert on the banks of the Yukon River in the Territory of Alaska.

Now, in 1992, young men dressed in cavalry blue rode forward, leather saddles creaking, sun gleaming on the leader's brightly polished saber. The American and Cavalry Post flags fluttered in the breeze. Explorers, with the Boy Scouts of America, performed a daily flag drill for the Eagle Historical Society tour during a four-day visit in August.

Their mounts were once wild horses on public lands. The 124th Cavalry Explorer Post adopted them through BLM's Adopt-a-Horse program and brought them to Alaska in 1989. The teenage troopers have enjoyed countless hours of riding and caring for the horses, and have ridden them on several community service projects. For this venture, eight troopers and two commanding officers traveled from Fairbanks to Fort Egbert to donate 110 hours of labor planting grass, landscaping, clearing trails, and scraping and painting the Quartermaster's Storehouse at the national historic site.

The troopers also salvaged an old wood-burning boiler from a steep ravine on American Creek and

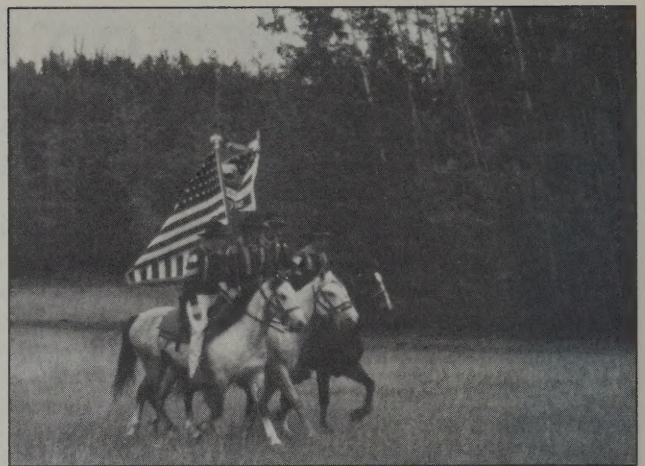
moved it to the mule barn. It had been used in drift-mining operations in the early 1900s. Local gold miner Harold Nevers donated the boiler to the Fort Egbert museum. He also demonstrated modern placer mining techniques for the troopers on his placer gold claim.

The cavalry Explorers rode their horses out to the Seventymile Trail where they evaluated the condition of the trail surface and helped mark part of the trail easement.

During their stay at Fort Egbert, they camped behind the mule barn, setting up a military line of tents and a picket line for the horses. They cooked their own meals and kept

their tack in horse trailers. In the evening, they climbed Eagle bluff for a scenic view of the surrounding country and rode their horses around Fort Egbert grounds.

Employees of BLM's Steese/White Mountains District, which co-sponsors the 124th Cavalry Explorer Post, instructed troop members in the history of the area, as well as the use and conservation of natural resources. "I was most interested in the military history and how they used horses and mules way back then,"



Four Cavalry troopers conduct a daily ceremonial flag drill on their mustangs adopted from BLM at the Fort Egbert parade ground.

said Sergeant Kirk Schwalm, a four-year veteran of the cavalry. "We got to see some different country that related to our cavalry history and the history of our state back in gold rush days,"

—Sharon Durgan Wilson



Scouts haul an old wood-burning boiler, dating from the early 1900s, from American Creek to the Eagle Museum.

BLM Librarian helps rebuild Kuwait

Hey, she's a librarian, for Pete's sake, not Indiana Jones. We expected Martha Shepard to stay tucked among the stacks, quietly answering our requests for off-beat information. So the long-time director of BLM's Alaska Resource Library surprised a lot of people when she suddenly announced she was taking a year's leave of absence to go to Kuwait.

It turns out she's going, with the blessings of BLM's Alaska State Director, to help rebuild war-ravaged library collections in Kuwait City.

And by the way, she just got married.

Shepard was chosen from more than a thousand applicants nationwide to receive a fellowship under a program operated jointly by the American Library Association and the U.S. Information Agency. The program places U.S. library specialists in overseas institutions for up to a year. She is one of just 19 people chosen this year for fellowships, and is the only one going to Kuwait.

Shepard says, "Am I nervous? Yes. I'm going to the National Science and Technology Information Center, which is a part of the Kuwait Institute for Science Research. The center was totally wiped out. Looted. Everything was removed, including the rugs, the walls. They essentially destroyed the building, and a number of people never came back after the occupation."

Some of Shepard's friends rigged up a veil as a gag gift for her, but it turns out she won't really need one. "What people continue to ask me is what will I wear? The answer is, conservative western dress," she said. "Skirts well below the knees, and so forth. It ought to be easy for a librarian! As far as I can tell, Arab countries vary from place to place in how conservative they are, and Kuwait falls somewhere in the middle. Women can drive. You don't need a veil. If you're married, you can go to a family beach with your husband."



Friends gave Shepard a veil as a gag gift—but she won't need it. She can wear western dress while working on her fellowship in Kuwait.

But there's one big hitch with going to the beach, says Shepard. "The problem is that mines float up on the beach regularly."

This summer she married Rodney Jackson, formerly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He's accompanying her to Kuwait, and the Institute has asked for his resume because he's a marine biologist. "So he may work for the Institute too," she said.

The foreign intrigue part of the trip has already started. "Probably the most exciting thing was when our passports got stolen. They were coming back from the Kuwait embassy in D.C. after being stamped with our visa entrance. They were in an overnight express U.S. Mail envelope. It was delivered with a slit in the bottom—empty. So we now

have new passports and are hand-carrying them to D.C. to be stamped with our visa."

People kid her that they're going to start hanging yellow ribbons on trees for her. "I told one friend, if anything happens, please plan to march on Washington," she joked.

Shepard's old, comfortable job will be waiting for her when the grand adventure ends.

—Jane Mangus

My Alaskan Adventures as a Vis

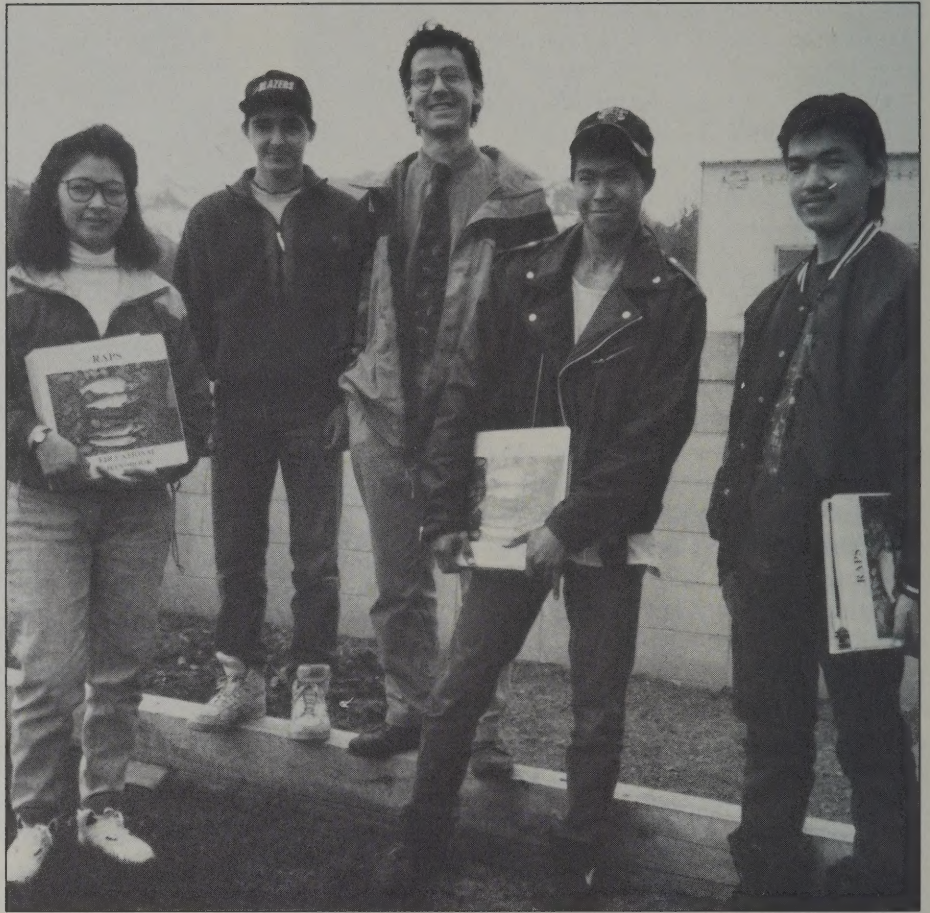
by Jeff Brune

When recruiters at VISTA, the domestic Peace Corps, say they want risk-taking individuals, they have their reasons. Just a few weeks after arriving in Alaska as a Volunteer In Service To America, I found myself in a bush plane flying in the dead of winter to the small village of Elim. Mid-flight I found out that Jake, the young pilot, had never before flown to Elim. He pulled out a map and yelled above the noisy prop, "Hey, will you help look for landmarks?" I was looking for a parachute. Maybe it was wrong of me, I thought, to ever leave Nebraska, my home state.

We managed to find Elim and land safely on a runway of packed snow. Before I could breathe a sigh of relief, I was whisked away to the village school on a wooden sled pulled by a snowmachine. (Not your average taxi service.) This was the start of my one-year commitment to VISTA.

I arrived in Elim to tell students about natural resources, careers in the sciences, and the Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students. RAPS gives high school students, primarily Alaska Natives, a chance to have a summer apprenticeship with biologists, archeologists, surveyors and other professionals involved with natural resources.

The Bureau of Land Management started the RAPS program in 1987 with two students. By the summer of 1992, the program had grown to 47 students whose apprenticeships spanned eight agencies. Recruiting, funding, and administering these students falls primarily on the shoulders of BLM's Bob Jones and two



VISTA Volunteer Jeff Brune (center) with four of this year's RAPS students. Left to right, Charlene Kawagley of Akiak, Joee Haugen of Unalakleet, John Crowe of Quinhagak, and Kevin Kuzuguk of Shishmaref.

VISTA Volunteers—myself in Anchorage and Steve Haines in Fairbanks.

Together this year we raised more than \$200,000 to cover educational stipends, travel, and housing costs for RAPS students in BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies including our newest partner, the Environmental Protection Agency.

As a BLM-funded VISTA volunteer, I facilitated cooperation among federal agencies. For example, I used a grant from the Alaska Conservation Foundation to fund a RAPS student on the Pribilof Islands. The student assisted Fish and Wildlife biologists at a nature

camp for elementary school children and was featured on CNN's "Earth Matters."

I also worked with Fish and Wildlife's Rick Poetter to house four RAPS students in a bunkhouse in King Salmon. (Local host families could not be found because most go commercial fishing during the summer.) To pay a live-in counselor to chaperone the students in the bunkhouse, I obtained funds through the Job Training Partnership Act. Eventually, two students had an apprenticeship with Fish and Wildlife and two with the Park Service.

In this case, the RAPS program, founded by the BLM, brought

a Volunteer for BLM

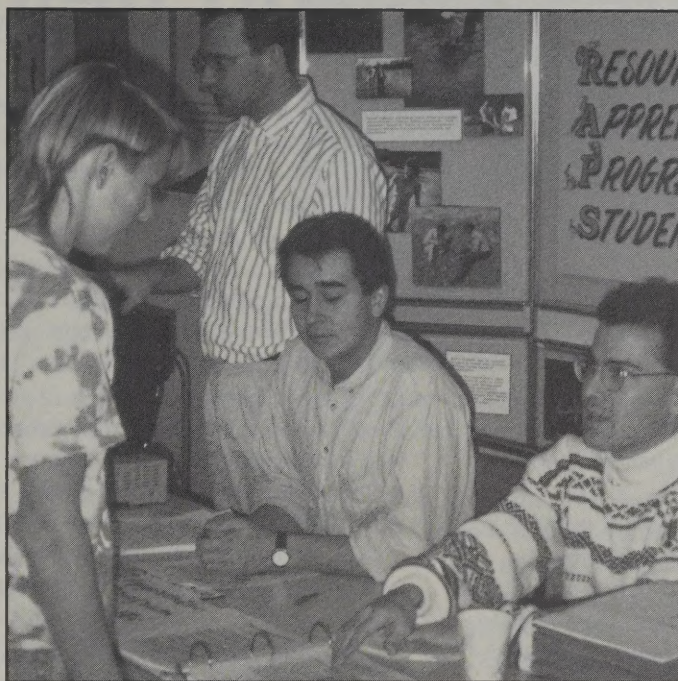
together two other federal agencies, four students from across Alaska, and a counselor funded by JTPA.

Being a VISTA wasn't all work. I was a lucky, first-time winner of the annual lottery to view bears at McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. For three glorious days, my younger brother, Jason, and I watched 60 bears at a time as they feasted on chum salmon.

Sometimes the bears were so close you could touch them. Funny, no one did.

This summer I also took my wife, sister and brother-in-law on an Alaskan vacation from hell. (I overestimated our physical fitness, just slightly). In a week's time we hiked eight miles of primitive trails to a public-use cabin in the Chugach National Forest, turned green at sea on a boat tour of Seward's Resurrection Bay and rappelled down a 60-foot ice cliff on Root Glacier, only to turn around and ice-pick back up. It was nice to get home and stop my knees from shaking.

By far the greatest challenge—and the greatest reward—in my year as a VISTA has been working



Jeff Brune, right, explains the RAPS program to prospective recruits at the Alaska Native Youth Convention in Anchorage.

with the students. One student wrote, "Jeff, you have inspired me to go on with this program and with my goals to attend college. In my language, Qu yana Caknek, Thank you, very much."

For a year with VISTA I've taken the road less traveled by. And as good 'ole Robert Frost says, that has made all the difference.



Lunchtime at the McNeil River—two cubs follow their mother with the latest catch.

BLM surveyors help with three rescues during field season

When BLM surveyors collect their instruments and head into Alaska's wilderness, sometimes they establish more than just monuments. Sometimes they establish friendships while helping residents of the small, rural villages in times of crisis.

BLM field survey parties recently assisted in three separate search and rescue incidents in small Native villages near survey camps.

On August 31 a BLM survey party doing Native allotment surveys near Fort Yukon was asked to help rescue three people who were injured and stranded when their small plane crashed.

"We were monitoring the aircraft frequency when we heard about the crash," explained BLM survey chief Orrin Frederick. "Local search and rescue efforts had located the crash site, but there was no place for a plane to land. So the residents asked us to use our helicopter and pilot to airlift the victims for medical attention."

Frederick and the pilot picked up emergency medical technician Emma Flitt at the Fort Yukon health clinic and arrived at the

crash site at 6:30 p.m. Frederick is a certified emergency trauma technician. He and Flitt assessed the victims' injuries and immobilized one man with a possible back injury. They strapped him to a backboard, bundled him into three arctic sleeping bags and airlifted him back to the clinic. From there he was taken by airplane to a Fairbanks hospital. The other two victims sustained only minor injuries and were treated at the clinic.

Two dogs also survived the crash and were airlifted along with their owners. "They were jumping around and seemed to be fine," said Frederick. "I guess dogs are pretty resilient compared to people. They were watching their owners pretty intently though."

Earlier that same week survey chief Craig Dukart and his party were doing Native allotment surveys near Anaktuvuk Pass. Local residents asked them to use their helicopter to help search for a

missing person. The man was eventually located. BLM State Director Ed Spang later received a letter of appreciation from Mayor Paul Hugo of Anaktuvuk Pass commending Dukart and his crew for their assistance. The letter was signed by some two dozen residents of the small Native village.

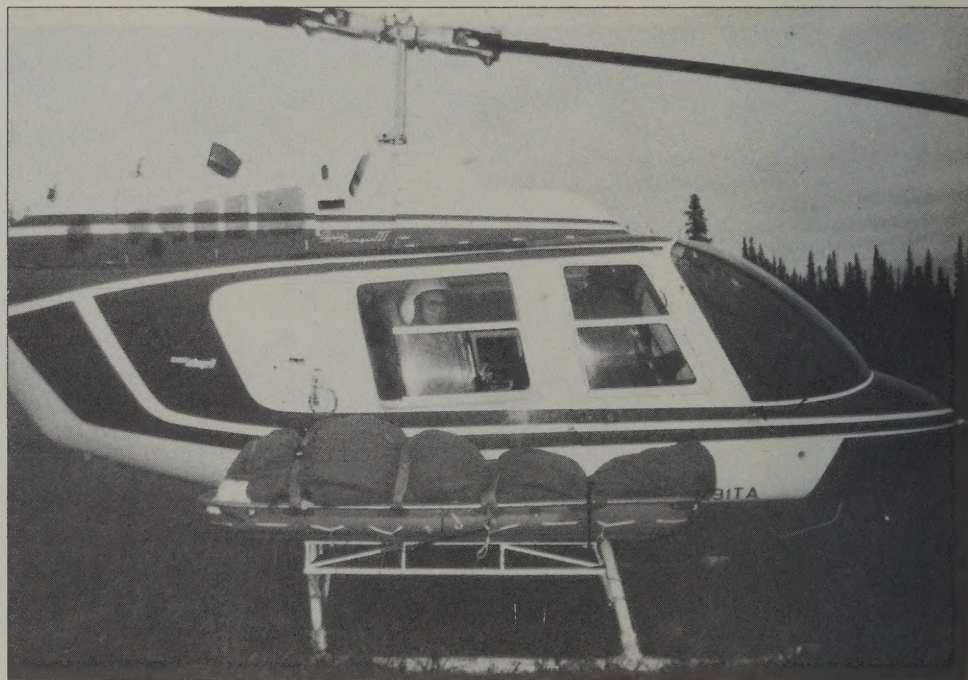
A second rescue effort at Anaktuvuk Pass involved an injured hiker. "The hiker had hurt his ankle and had been trying to flag down some help for a couple days," said Dukart. He was finally spotted by a passing plane, whose pilot radioed BLM contract pilot Seamus O'Daimhin aboard his helicopter. O'Daimhin picked up the hiker and took him to the village health clinic for treatment.

BLM surveyors agree that helping village residents when they can helps make their surveying job a little smoother and a lot more interesting. "And it just feels good," says surveyor Orrin Frederick."

—Teresa McPherson

EMT Emma Flitt watches over aircrash victim Chip Barker as

BLM contract pilot Ken Butters prepares to airlift the two back to the Fort Yukon clinic. Barker had back injuries and had to remain flat during the flight, so the crew used bungee cords to strap him into the helicopter's cargo basket.



Russian firefighters visit Alaska

There was no smoke but you might have thought there was a fire when Russian firefighters piled out of their tour bus during a stop in Fort Yukon.

The Russians were astonished to see a U.S. congressman—Representative Don Young—home during the congressional recess and repairing the roof on his shed. After seeing the bus screech to a halt, Young climbed off the roof for an impromptu visit.

The five top Russian wildfire officials recently spent two weeks in Alaska, visiting fire-fighting facilities in Southcentral and the Interior, and discussing methods and techniques of wildfire suppression. Officials hope the visit will mark the historic beginning of an era of cooperation between Alaskan and Russian firefighters.

The Russian visitors included Nikolai Andreev, director—general of the National Fire Center near Moscow. He manages the aerial wildfire suppression program on more than 2 billion acres of land, an area more than five times the size of Alaska.

Others in the party were Eduard Davydenko, head of the Science and

Technology Department in Moscow, a forest fire protection program; Alexander Lyubyakin, chief of the Kabarov Fire Center in southcentral Siberia; Boris Khobta, chief of the Northeast Fire Center in Magadan; and Nikolai Beliaev, a researcher at the Leningrad Forestry Institute and interpreter for the group. They were joined for part of the tour by Keith Kepke, head of fire management for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

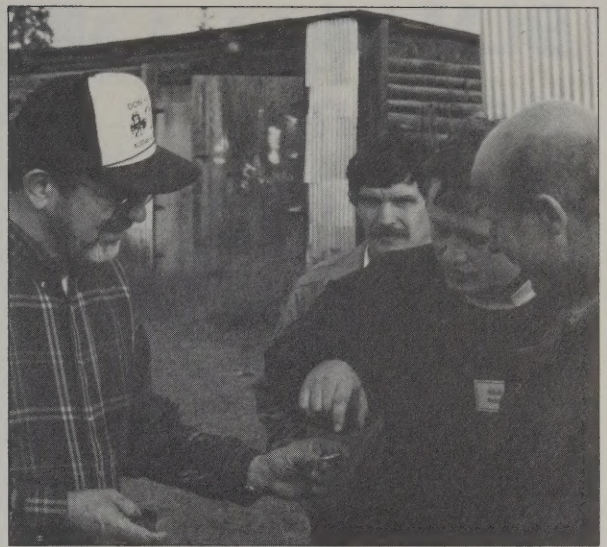
The Alaska Fire Service served as host for the tour after the Russians contacted American officials. Marvin Robertson, associate manager for AFS, led the tour.

The visit pointed out areas where international cooperation would be beneficial. A letter of common understanding was drafted proposing that BLM-Alaska and Russia share information on factors affecting fire management, and exchange fire managers, technicians and specialists to experience day-to-day operations in the two countries.

The group arrived in Anchorage August 26 and visited BLM and other federal and state agencies before traveling to the Kenai Peninsula to see the area burned by the 1991 Pothole Lake fire.

They took the Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks and then drove to Pump Station 7 along the trans-Alaska Pipeline and the Hess Creek Burn near Mile 24 Dalton Highway. They spent the next five days in Fairbanks visiting BLM's Alaska Fire Service and University of Alaska facilities. They also met with Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

On September 5, the group boarded a twin-engine Sherpa leased by the AFS for a two-day tour



Surprised Russians meet Congressman Don Young in Fort Yukon, present a commemorative pin to him.

of Eagle, Fort Yukon, Central, Bettles and Tanana. Robertson and other fire managers showed fire-fighting facilities and discussed operations in each fire zone.

Robertson noted that because Alaska and Russia share similar problems of climate, geography and vegetation as well as vast roadless areas, international cooperation would make sense. For example, "It's a shorter flight from here to Magadan than it is from here to Boise, Idaho," he said. Alaskan crews are frequently sent to the Inter-Agency Fire Center at Boise when there are big fires in the Lower 48.

Robertson said the Russians have a much larger fire-fighting force than Alaska has. They have 3,500 smokejumpers, compared to about 65 in Alaska; 300 fire aircraft, compared to about a dozen in Alaska, 4,500 rappellers, and a population base of 5 million in the forestry program from which to draw fire crews.

Director-General Andreev said the Russians are ready and willing to exchange information and resources and to work with Alaskans to identify areas for possible future agreements. If an agreement comes from the efforts of U.S. and Russian officials, the meeting in Alaska will have been the first step on a road of international cooperation.

—Andy Williams/Janet Malone

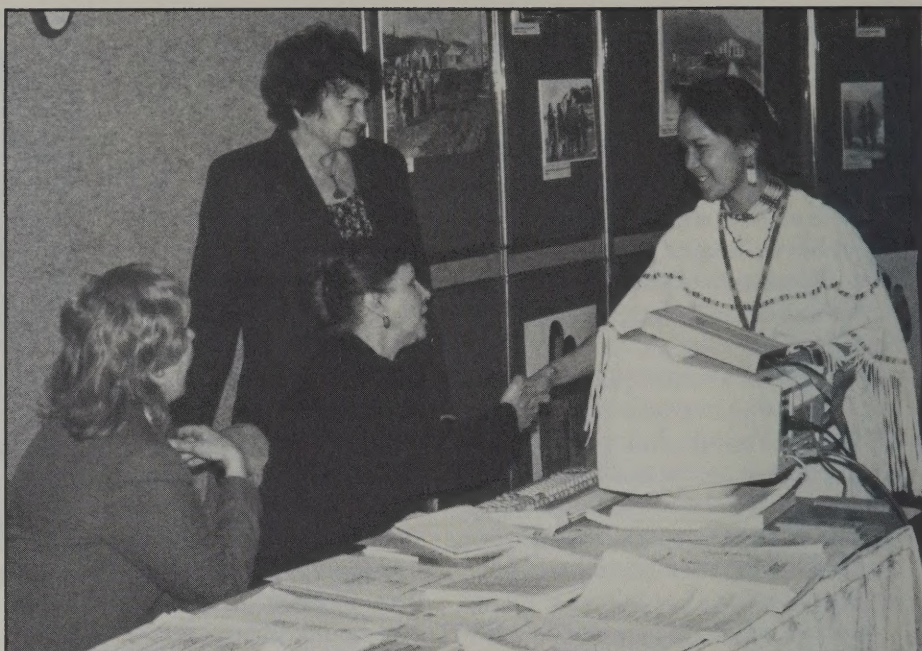


Nikolai Andreev, director-general of the National Fire Center, talks to Glenn Juday of the University of Alaska.

BLM takes lands info to convention

At the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage in October, BLM employees gave presentations on topics ranging from land surveying to Native allotments to federal job opportunities.

BLM staffed an information booth that included a remote computer linkup with their Land Information System, to answer questions on the status of Native allotments. A workshop covered BLM's role in surveying and how Native Corporations may submit proposals for survey contracts under the Indian Self-Determination Act.



BLM adjudicators Melitta White, Dot Tideman and Arlene Rocker, left, greet Beverly Masek during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention.

Murkowski hits target, donates prize

Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski's eagle eye and trigger finger helped win \$10,000 at a BLM-sponsored celebrity shooting tournament this summer.

Murkowski donated his share of the winnings to Ducks Unlimited of Alaska, the Anchorage Zoo and the Minto-Healey Lake Duck Conservation Association.

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and BLM Director Cy Jamison served as both hosts and

competitors with business executives, conservation leaders and Members of Congress for a day of shotgun competition at the BLM's First Congressional Shooting Tournament in Maryland.

Prizes totaling \$17,500 were provided by the Pinkerton Group. Senator Murkowski and his team of sharp shooters—Tom Guinan, President of the Pinkerton Tobacco Company; Dallas Miner, Vice President of Government Affairs for

the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association; Nick Seifert of *Outdoor Life* Magazine; and Brendan Banahan, Publisher of *Field and Stream* and *Outdoor Life* magazines—won the \$10,000 first prize.

Eight squads of five shooters competed in seven events staffed by BLM volunteers.

The tournament promoted safe and responsible sport shooting, hunter ethics, and family recreational

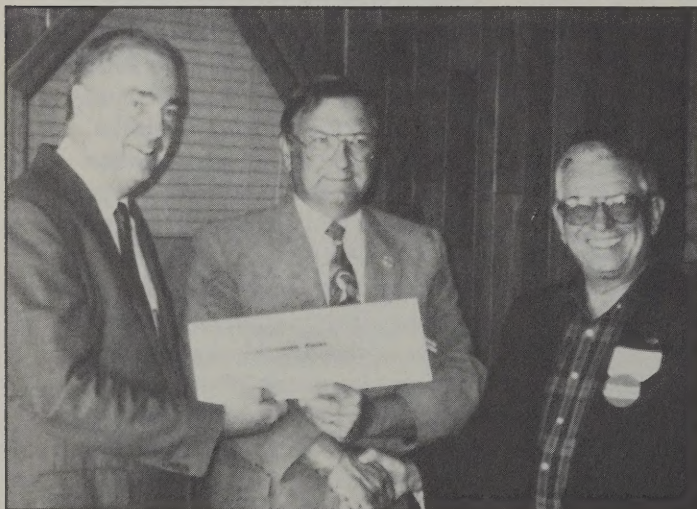
sport shooting and hunting, one of the eight activities of Interior Secretary Lujan's Enjoy Outdoors America Initiative.

"Outdoor recreation is essential to the health and happiness of Americans. Whether it is hunting, hiking or boating, Americans want more and better recreational opportunities," Lujan said.

BLM's Jamison pledged "to make outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife of equal importance in the BLM's multiple-use mandate."

Fish and wildlife resources on public lands provide recreational, commercial and economic benefits to the people of America. Each year hunters spend more than five million days worth \$145 million in economic benefits on public lands. Over the past 50 years, Duck Stamp sales have raised more than \$400 million and have paid for the purchase, lease or protection of four million acres of wetlands. Secretary Lujan said, "This first BLM Congressional Shooting Tournament was a great success and I'm already looking forward to the second."

—Michelle Palladino/Janet Malone



Sen. Frank Murkowski, left, gives check to Clark Springer, vice president of Ducks Unlimited, while Interior Secretary Lujan offers congratulations.

They tackled tons of trash

This summer the BLM Arctic District's lands staff hit the road once again conducting the second annual Dalton Highway Cleanup campaign—and netting 44 tons of solid waste. Last year they collected more than 12 tons.

The project was a testimony to community cooperation. Several volunteers from Fairbanks and Colorado joined the Arctic District staff in the down-and-dirty work of picking up tires, metal and wood scraps, and general trash. They spent an entire day cleaning up an old unauthorized-use site and a dilapidated cabin just north of Coldfoot.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company at Pump Station Three provided front-end loaders to pick up and remove abandoned cars and trailers from approximately 21 miles of highway roadside and three acres in and around the community of Coldfoot. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities loaned operators to run the equipment and helped with the loading and tie-downs. Drivers from BLM's Alaska Fire Service also brought flatbed and stakebed trucks

The North Slope Borough let BLM dispose of all trash and vehicles collected within the borough's boundary for free at its Prudhoe Bay landfill. All solid waste collected south of the North Slope Borough was hauled 300 miles back to Fairbanks.

Since the beginning of the program in 1991, Arctic District employees have cleaned up more than 56 tons of solid waste from 70 miles of the 500-mile-long Dalton Highway. Their goal is to have everyone who travels the Dalton Highway recognize the need for a cooperative effort to keep it clean.

"We would eventually like to see some sort of 'Adopt a Highway' program along this scenic route through northern Alaska," says District Manager Dee Ritchie.



Volunteers help BLM employees pick up trash along the Dalton Highway where it crosses the Brooks Range.



Workers from the Alaska Department of Transportation hauled away big items like vehicles, trailers and tractor tires, using equipment loaned by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

To kick off the program, the district lands staff will adopt the first 20 miles from the Yukon River north. They hope their gesture will inspire others to join this effort to Take Pride in America.

—Sharon Durgan Wilson



frontier flashes

The Cook Inlet Tribal Council has presented the RAPS program with their 1992 Community Organization of the Year Award. The Tribal Council is the non-profit arm of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., the corporation serving Anchorage area Alaska Native communities. Jeff Brune and Steve Haines, VISTA volunteers working with the RAPS program, accepted the award at ceremonies in Anchorage. "With supportive organizations such as the RAPS program, Native students have a much better opportunity of succeeding," said Virginia Thomas of the council's Native Education Committee.

The massive cleanup of PCB-contaminated soils in the Swanson River oil field has now been completed, at a cost of \$45 million. Some years ago, oiled gravels were used to control dust on roads and in the parking lot of the oil production complex. In 1984, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the oil used for this purpose was contaminated with PCBs. Atlantic

Richfield Co., which later took over the operation of the field, contracted with Ogden Environmental Services to clean up the soil. Ogden has now finished decontaminating 107,686 tons of soil and gravel, using a huge incinerator shipped to Alaska and assembled on-site for the purpose. BLM oversees oil and gas operations on federal onshore land.

BLM's Alaska Fire Service in Fairbanks sent 17 logistics and support workers to the Everglades National Park in Florida to help restore services and rebuild facilities destroyed by Hurricane Andrew, which destroyed the homes of more than 100 National Park Service families and did massive damage to park facilities. The Alaskans volunteered for the mission and agreed to stay as long as required.

BLM district managers for northern Alaska met with key staff members of the girl Scouts of the United States of America and of

the U.S. Department of the Interior recently to discuss past and future projects. Under a 1988 memorandum of understanding between the Girl Scouts and the Department of the Interior, BLM will provide projects for the scouts as well as special tasks that will fulfill requirements for scouting badges.

This year Kobuk District Manager Helen Hankins is serving as president of the Yukon-Alaska Council of Toastmasters. Currently there are 25 toastmaster clubs in Alaska and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories of Canada. Also Hankins was detailed recently to the BLM Alaska State Office in Anchorage to serve as Deputy State Director of Administration.



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